

CLAIMS

1. Method for transporting a sheet (5), comprising the following steps:

- moving the sheet (5) in a first direction by applying a first carrier (10) which is movable in the first direction and which is capable of retaining the sheet (5) by means of a surface force, wherein a retainer area (34) of the sheet (5) is retained by the first carrier (10) and a conveyance area (35) of the sheet (5) projects with respect to the first carrier (10);

- conveying the sheet (5) from the first carrier (10) to a second carrier (20) which is movable in a second direction and which is capable of retaining the sheet (5) by means of a surface force, wherein the sheet (5) is put in a conveyance position by the first carrier (10), in which position the complete conveyance area (35) overlaps the second carrier (20); and

- moving the sheet (5) in the second direction by applying the second carrier (20); wherein, during the movement of the sheet (5) in the first direction, guidance of a guidance area (36) of the sheet (5), which comprises at least a portion of the conveyance area (35) of the sheet (5), takes place by applying guiding means (60), which guidance is cancelled when the sheet (5) has reached the conveyance position.

2. Method according to claim 1, wherein the guiding means (60) are capable of retaining the guidance area (36) of the sheet (5) by means of a surface force.

3. Method according to claim 1 or 2, wherein the guiding means (60) are adapted to guaranteeing that the guidance area (36) of the sheet (5) and the retainer area (34) of the sheet (5) extend at a substantially equal level.

4. Method according to any of claims 1-3, wherein the guiding means (60) are movable in the first direction.

5. Method according to claim 4, wherein, during the time that guidance of the guidance area (36) of the sheet (5) takes place, a

speed at which the guiding means (60) are moved is substantially equal to a speed at which the first carrier (10) is moved.

6. Method according to claim 4 or 5, wherein the cancellation of the guidance of the guidance area (36) of the sheet (5) takes place by realizing a speed difference of the guiding means (60) and the first carrier (10).

7. Method according to any of claims 1-6, wherein the guidance area (36) comprises a portion of the conveyance area (35) of the sheet (5), which is a front portion (36) in said direction.

8. Device (1) for carrying out a method according to any of claims 1-7, comprising:

- 15 - a movable first carrier (10) which is adapted to moving sheets (5) in a first direction and retaining sheets (5) by means of a surface force;
- a movable second carrier (20) which is adapted to moving sheets (5) in a second direction and retaining sheets (5) by means of surface force, wherein the first carrier (10) and the second carrier (20) adjoin each other in a close-fitting fashion at the location of a conveyance region (12); and
- guiding means (60) for guiding a portion (36) of sheets (5) which are retained by the first carrier (10), as far as in the conveyance region (12).

9. Device (1) according to claim 8, wherein the guiding means (60) are adapted to retaining sheets (5) by means of a surface force.

10. Device (1) according to claim 8 or 9, wherein contacting areas of the first carrier (10) and contacting areas (61) of the guiding means (60), which are adapted to contacting the sheets (5), are located on a substantially equal level.

11. Device (1) according to any of claims 8-10, wherein the guiding means (60) are movable in the first direction.

12. Device (1) according to claim 11, wherein the guiding means comprise an endless conveyor belt (60).

13. Device (1) according to claim 12, wherein the conveyor belt (60) comprises at least two different types of areas, wherein at the location of one type of area (61) a dimension of the conveyor belt (60) in a transverse direction is different than at the location of
5 another type of area (62).

14. Device (1) according to any of claims 8-13, further comprising a frame (45) for receiving a reel (41) having a web (4) which is destined to receive the sheets (5) and to be connected to the sheets
10 (5); and a glueing device (85) for applying glue to the web (4).

15. Device (1) according to claim 14, wherein the glueing device (85) is arranged near the frame (45) for receiving the reel (41).

15 16. Guiding device (33, 43, 55) for guiding a web (2, 3, 4), comprising a frame (39) and a guiding member (37) which is destined to contact the web (2, 3, 4), wherein the guiding member (37) is movable with respect to the frame (39).

20 17. Guiding device (33, 43, 55) according to claim 16, wherein the guiding member (37) is adapted to contacting exclusively one side of the web (2, 3, 4).

18. Guiding device (33, 43, 55) according to claim 16 or 17,
25 wherein the guiding member (37) is movable with respect to the frame (39) along a substantially straight line in one direction, wherein said one direction is preferably a horizontal direction.

19. Guiding device (33, 43, 55) according to any of claims 16-18,
30 further comprising moving means for moving the guiding member (37) with respect to the frame (39); and controlling means for determining the position of the guiding member (37) with respect to the frame (39) and controlling the moving means; wherein the moving means preferably comprise an electric motor.

35 20. Guiding device (33, 43, 55) according to any of claims 16-19, wherein the guiding member (37) comprises at least one rotatably arranged guiding roller (38).

21. Device (1) according to any of claims 8-15, comprising at least one guiding device (33, 43, 55) according to any of claims 16-20.

22. Method for transporting a sheet (5), comprising the following steps:

- moving the sheet (5) in a first direction by applying a first carrier (10) which is movable in the first direction and which is capable of retaining the sheet (5) by means of a surface force;
- conveying the sheet (5) from the first carrier (10) to a web (4), wherein said web (4) is supported by a second carrier (20) which is movable in a second direction and which is capable of retaining the web (4) by means of a surface force; and
- moving the sheet (5) in the second direction by applying the second carrier (20), while the sheet (5) is supported by the web (4);

wherein, during the movement of the sheet (5) in the second direction, the web (4) is activated to retain the sheet (5) by means of a surface force.

23. Method according to claim 22, wherein the web (4) and the sheet (5) are moved along a guiding device, preferably a guiding device (55) according to any of claims 16-20; and wherein the web (4) and the sheet (5) are fixedly connected to each other at a position beyond the guiding device (55).